1.	(Amended) A method of producing an ink-spread compensated variant of an existing optical code encodation scheme comprising the steps of:

determining a pattern of printed areas and spaces in the existing encodation scheme for a data input; the printed areas and spaces each having a respective length in at least one dimension as a function of a given unit length for encoding information; and

adding a predetermined length to the length of each space while the length of each printed area remains unchanged to produce a modified code symbol.